

Message Text

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FM SECSTATE WASHDC

TO AMEMBASSY KUWAIT PRIORITY

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E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: MASS, KU

SUBJECT: QUARTERS FOR KAF TRAINEES

REF: KUWAIT 309

1. SUMMARY: FOR A NUMBER OF PRACTICAL REASONS DETAILED IN TEXT THIS MESSAGE, USG IS UNABLE TO ACCOMMODATE THE GOK REQUEST TO USE MILITARY BASES TO HOUSE KUWAITI AIR FORCE CADETS TRAINING ON SKYHAWK AIRCRAFT. WHILE WE UNDERSTAND GOK CONCERNS THAT GAVE BIRTH TO REQUEST, WE HOPE EMBASSY KUWAIT WILL MAKE KUWAITIS UNDERSTAND WHY WE CANNOT BE RESPONSIVE TO REQUEST AND ENCOURAGE EARLY GOK APPROVAL OF ARRANGEMENTS WHICH HAVE BEEN MADE. END SUMMARY.

2. SINCE THE INCEPTION OF THE A-4 PLAN, WHEN THE NAVY WAS GIVEN RESPONSIBILITY FOR ITS PROGRAM IMPLEMENTATION, WE HAVE CONSISTENTLY MAINTAINED THAT IT WAS GOK'S RESPONSIBILITY TO ARRANGE COMMERCIAL ACCOMMODATION FOR LODGING, MEALS, AND MEDICAL CARE. THIS POSITION WAS CLEARLY SET FORTH IN LIMITED OFFICIAL USE

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THE A-4 KU/TA-4 TRAINING PLAN OF 10 MARCH 1975 WHICH WAS

APPROVED IN WRITING BY GOK REPS. WE HAVE VIEWED THESE DOCUMENTS MUTUALLY APPROVED BY OUR TWO GOVERNMENTS AS CONTRACTUAL IN NATURE.

3. WE SUSPECT THAT MODA REQUEST FOR HOUSING CADETS ON US MILITARY BASE AND COMPLAINT THAT DOUGLAS CORPORATION PROPOSAL FOR KAF TRAINEES AS NOT INSURING THEIR SAFETY, MILITARY CONTROL OR DISCIPLINE IS BASED ON TWO FACTORS. FIRST IS KUWAITI AWARENESS OF USAF TRAINING OF SAUDI TECHNICIANS AT LACKLAND AFB. THIS PROGRAM WAS DEVELOPED OVER PERIOD OF YEARS AND IS ON BASIS SPECIALLY NEGOTIATED FMS CASE WITH SAUDIS INVOLVING SAUDI PAYING FOR REFURBISHING OF BUILDINGS, FURNITURE, DISPENSARY, ETC. AS WELL AS FOR PROGRAM FOR BASIC MILITARY TRAINING AND SKILLS. SUCH A PROGRAM CANNOT BE INSTITUTED IN FEW WEEKS BEFORE KUWAITI TRAINING BEGINS, ESPECIALLY SINCE TRAINING WILL BE IN AREA WHERE NO IMMEDIATELY AVAILABLE MILITARY HOUSING FACILITIES EXIST. SECOND HAS BEEN KUWAITI ATTEMPTS TO GET US NAVY TO SHARE RESPONSIBILITY FOR MAINTAINING DISCIPLINE AMONG KUWAITI CADETS WHICH KUWAITIS ASSUME CAN BE BETTER ASSURED WITHIN CONFINES OF MILITARY INSTALLATION. WE AVE POINTED OUT MAINTAINING DISCIPLINE IS KUWAITI RESPONSIBILITY AND CAN BEST BE ASSURED BY ASSIGNING ADEQUATE NUMBER OF COMPETENT KUWAITI MILITARY LIAISON OFFICERS TO PROGRAM. TO SUGGEST THAT US OFFICERS ASSUME RESPONSIBILITY FOR MAINTAINING DISCIPLINE AMONG KUWAITI CADETS WOULD FIND SUCH OFFICERS IN INTENABLE POSITION OF HAVING RESPONSIBILITY FOR ORDER BUT WITHOUT COMMAND AUTHORITY TO EXERCISE CORRECTIVE DISCIPLINE.

4. IN AN ATTEMPT TO ASSIST GOK IN QUESTION OF ACCOMMODATIONS, DOUGLAS AIRCRAFT COMPANY HAS MADE ARRANGEMENTS TO PLACE TRAINEES IN COLLEGE DORMITORY LOCATED ON NORTHROP CAMPUS IN LOS ANGELES. STUDENTS WOULD HAVE FLOORS FOUR THROUGH SEVEN RESERVED FOR THEM. BUILDING INCLUDES DINING ROOM AND COOKING FACILITIES. THERE IS LIMITED ACCESS TO LIVING AREAS WHICH COULD BE GUARDED WITH MINIMUM NUMBER OF SECURITY PERSONNEL. BUSES WOULD BE AVAILABLE TO TRANSPORT MEN TO AND FROM DOUGLAS AIRCRAFT TRAINING FACILITIES. THESE PROPOSED ARRANGEMENTS ALONG WITH URGENT NEED TO LIMITED OFFICIAL USE

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ASSIGN KUWAITI LIAISON OFFICER WITH ARRIVAL FIRST GROUP OF STUDENTS WERE DISCUSSED WITH LTC HAMZA ISMAIL BY NAVY ON 19 JAN 76.

5. EMBASSY SHOULD REVIEW PROBLEM WITH GOK OFFICIALS MAKING FOLLOWING POINTS:

(A) WE HAVE GIVEN CAREFUL CONSIDERATION TO GOK REQUEST BUT

WE HAVE FOUND THAT THERE ARE NO CURRENTLY AVAILABLE ACCOMMODATIONS AT NEARBY US MILITARY INSTALLATIONS WHICH COULD HANDLE KUWAITI CADETS. NAVAL STATION AT LONG BEACH IS SHIPYARD AND SUPPLY CENTER AND CANNOT ACCOMMODATE HOUSING AND TRAINING IN CARRYING OUT ITS RESPONSIBILITIES.

MARINE CORPS AIR STATION AT EL TORO IS AN OPERATIONAL BASE WHICH WITHIN PRESENT MANPOWER AUTHORIZATIONS IS STAFFED TO MEET MINIMUM OPERATIONAL REQUIREMENTS. LOS ALAMITOS IS A RESERVE BASE AND DOES NOT HAVE CAPABILITY, PERSONNEL OR PHYSICAL PLANT TO ACCOMMODATE TRAINEES.

(B) WHILE GOK WILLINGNESS TO PAY COSTS TO REHABILITATE FACILITIES IS APPRECIATED, ACCEPTANCE OF GOK OFFER WOULD REQUIRE TIME-CONSUMING PROCEDURES TO NEGOTIATE RE-FURBISHING, EQUIPPING, CONSTRUCTION, STAFFING, ETC., WHICH WOULD DELAY TRAINING FOR MANY MONTHS, PERHAPS AS MUCH AS A YEAR, AND IT WOULD MEAN THAT THE SKYHAWKS WOULD ARRIVE IN KUWAIT LONG BEFORE MECHANICS OR PILOTS WOULD BE AVAILABLE TO MAINTAIN OR FLY THEM. THE RESULTANT DETERIORATION IN THE AIRCRAFT WOULD BE VERY COSTLY TO GOK.

(C) WE BELIEVE QUESTIONS OF DISCIPLINE CAN BEST BE HANDLED BY HAVING GOK ASSIGN SUFFICIENT NUMBER OF EXPERIENCED LIAISON OFFICERS WITH TRAINEES. AS FOR QUARTERS, WE BELIEVE THAT ARRANGEMENTS MADE BY DOUGLAS AIRCRAFT CORPORATION AT COLLEGE DORMITORY PRESENT MANY ADVANTAGES AND THAT PRIVATE GUARDS ARE EASILY AVAILABLE IF GOK BELIEVES ADDITIONAL SECURITY ARRANGEMENTS ARE NECESSARY.

(D) WE HOPE GOK WILL ACCEPT ARRANGEMENTS THAT HAVE BEEN WORKED OUT. UNLESS GOK INFORMS US PROMPTLY THAT IT PREPARED ACCEPT NORTHROP DORMITORY FACILITIES, WE HAVE LIMITED OFFICIAL USE

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BEEN TOLD NORTHROP CAN NO LONGER HOLD THESE FACILITIES. THIS WILL CAUSE FURTHER SLIPPAGE IN TRAINING PROGRAM AND RESULT IN FINANCIAL LOSS TO GOK. INGERSOLL

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